

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a plurality of business software components, the method comprising:

discovering information about a first stand-alone business software application, the first business software application having at least one first component capability or first component requirement;

binding the at least one first component capability or first component requirement to a first role in a model-driven bus;

discovering information about a second stand-alone business software application, the second business software application having at least one second component capability or second component requirement; and

providing standardized messaging between the first and second stand-alone business software applications wherein the first and second stand-alone business software applications interact with the model-driven bus in the form of a publisher/subscriber model;

binding the at least one second component capability or second component requirement to a second role in a model-driven bus;

wherein at least one capability of the first stand-alone business software application overlaps at least one capability of the second stand-alone business software application, and wherein the model-driven bus provides arbitration such that only one of the first and second stand-alone business software applications provides the overlapping capability; and

examining role bindings to determine if a business process can be enabled.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of discovering information about the first stand-alone business software application is performed by a discovery manager.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of discovering information about the second stand-alone business software application is performed by a discovery manager.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of discovering information about the first stand-alone business software occurs automatically.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the step of discovering information about the second stand-alone business software occurs automatically.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the automatic discovery occurs as part of installation of the first stand-alone business software.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the information about the first stand-alone business software is metadata.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the information about the second stand-alone business application is metadata.

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9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein examining includes comparing process role bindings to predefined process pattern information.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the predefined process pattern information is part of a pattern fitness layer.

14. (Currently Amended) A business software system embodied on at least one computer readable storage medium, the system comprising:

a software bus having a temporally stable interface designed in accordance with a comprehensive business taxonomy;

a first business software application bound to and fulfilling a first portion of the software bus; and

a second business software application bound to and fulfilling a second portion of the software bus

wherein the software bus includes a message routing layer to provide standardized communication with each of the software applications;

wherein at least one capability of the first business software application overlaps at least one capability of the second business software application, and wherein the software bus provides arbitration such that only one of the first and second business software applications provides the overlapping capability; and

wherein the software bus examines role bindings to determine if a business process can be enabled.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the software bus includes a pattern fitness layer to check information relative to the first and second software applications.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the software bus includes an administration layer to facilitate user management of the applications.

18. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the software bus includes a replication layer.

19. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the software bus includes an auditing layer.

20. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the software bus includes a key performance indicators layer.

21. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the software bus is usable with different comprehensive business taxonomies.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein each of the different comprehensive business taxonomies is domain-specific.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

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